

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the State University Free Seat
 3 Program; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; creating the State
 4 University Free Seat Program; providing a purpose;
 5 providing an exemption from tuition and fees,
 6 including lab fees, for one online course at a state
 7 university for certain resident students; prohibiting
 8 a state university from charging such students more
 9 than a specified percentage of the tuition rate and
 10 the tuition differential under certain circumstances;
 11 providing a limitation on the application of such
 12 tuition discount; requiring each state university to
 13 report certain information regarding waivers under the
 14 program to the Board of Governors annually; requiring
 15 the board to adopt regulations; providing an effective
 16 date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20 Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 1009.26,
 21 Florida Statutes, to read:

22 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

23 (18) The State University Free Seat Program is created to
 24 encourage veterans, active duty members of the United States
 25 Armed Forces, active drilling members of the Florida National

26 | Guard, and nontraditional students to enroll in an online
 27 | baccalaureate degree program at a state university.

28 | (a) A state university shall waive the tuition and fees,
 29 | including lab fees, for one online course for a student who is a
 30 | resident for tuition purposes under s. 1009.21 and is enrolled
 31 | in an online baccalaureate degree program, provided the student
 32 | meets one of the following eligibility requirements:

33 | 1. Is a veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14);

34 | 2. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed
 35 | Forces;

36 | 3. Is an active drilling member of the Florida National
 37 | Guard; or

38 | 4. Has not been enrolled in a postsecondary institution
 39 | for more than 5 years.

40 | (b) For all other courses in the program, a state
 41 | university may not charge a student described in paragraph (a)
 42 | more than 75 percent of the tuition rate as specified in s.
 43 | 1009.24(4) and 75 percent of the tuition differential pursuant
 44 | to s. 1009.24(16), if the student remains enrolled in at least
 45 | one online course during each academic year.

46 | (c) A student who qualifies for the tuition discount under
 47 | paragraph (b) is eligible to receive the discount for up to 110
 48 | percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree
 49 | program for which the student is enrolled.

50 (d) Each state university shall report to the Board of
51 Governors the number and value of all fee waivers granted
52 annually under this subsection.

53 (e) The Board of Governors shall adopt regulations to
54 administer this subsection.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.